



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 5 and 8-13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As to claims 5 and 8, the prior art does not teach further soliciting compatibility criteria or further travel plans as the Posting traveler and Browsing traveler desire.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US PAT 6,751,548 to Fox et al. discloses a method for commuters with travel plans to meet that includes ranking the travel plans according to optimality, they do not, however, teach allowing the travelers to add supplemental information such as compatibility criteria and further travel plan information, US PAT 4,360,875 to Behnke teaches a way for commuters to check travel plans but does not teach ranking travel plans and allowing a browser to choose the optimal one and further does not teach allowing users to post further options such as compatibility criteria, such as a smoking car or non-smoking car, and further travel plans, such as alternate route information. JP 2003186959 to Asakura et al. (note, information is taken from the

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English-language abstract as provided) discloses a car pool meeting method but does not teach ranking travel plans and allowing a browser to choose the optimal one and further does not teach allowing users to post further options such as compatibility criteria, such as a smoking car or non-smoking car, and further travel plans, such as alternate route information, RideshareOnline.com (from 2/1/01 as saved by the Internet Archive) discloses matching riders with commuters, but does not teach compatibility criteria or further travel plans, Dateable.com (from 12/14/99 as saved by the Internet Archive) discloses connecting people together according to location and desired location and using compatibility criteria, Dateable.com is a dating service and not a travel service and further, does not teach an algorithm for determining the best starting and ending locations, they merely check to see where you want to go.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Fisher whose telephone number is 571-272-6804. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-5:00pm alt Fri. off.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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